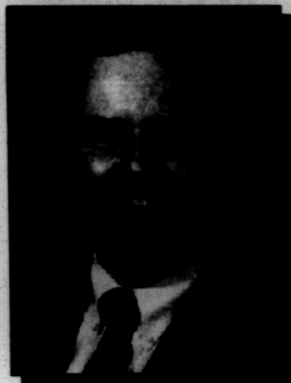
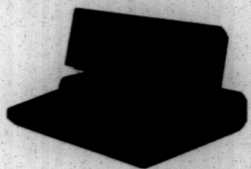






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E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org**

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# The victims of victimless crimes

There is a class of crime in this country to which we refer as "victimless" crimes. We like that phrase, because it softens the harsh legal descriptions of the crimes and makes us feel less guilty.

At the top of the list of allegedly victimless crimes is prostitution. We hear the message all the time through the news and entertainment media (which are indistinguishable these days): One person is willing to pay for a service — prostitution — and another person is willing to provide the service at an mutually-agreeable price.

That's a business deal and not a crime, right? Who will ever know?

Tell that to the families that have been torn apart by infidelity, or to the innocent spouse who becomes infected with an incurable or terminal disease brought home by the cheater. Tell that to the starving children left home alone while their mother feeds a ravenous crack habit by selling her body on the streets, or to the elderly neighborhood residents trapped in declining urban areas rife with such activity.

No, victimless crimes are not victimless. Far from it.

Running a close second on the list, especially for Christians, has to be pornography. Before you become indignant about that observation, you should read on.

Jimmy Draper, president of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), told a meeting of state Baptist newspaper editors some time ago that the prayer line at LifeWay is daily inundated with calls from people pleading for prayer on their behalf as they struggle with an uncontrollable attraction to pornography.

More recently, Draper was quoted as saying that he has come to believe pornography is the "sin of choice" for Christians. One can infer, based on Draper's observations as the head of one of the SBC's largest agencies, that he has also seen his share of Southern Baptists ensnared by pornography's allure.

The advent of the Internet had brought pornography out of the sleazy back rooms and into the living rooms of Christian homes.

Consumers of pornography no longer have to slip into a dirty book store to satisfy their desire; a few clicks of the mouse will bring the entire inventory of such a store before their eyes in a matter of seconds.

The Baptist Record published a guest opinion several years ago from a young husband and father — a community and church leader — for whom a secret addition to pornography had ruined his life and driven away his wife and family.

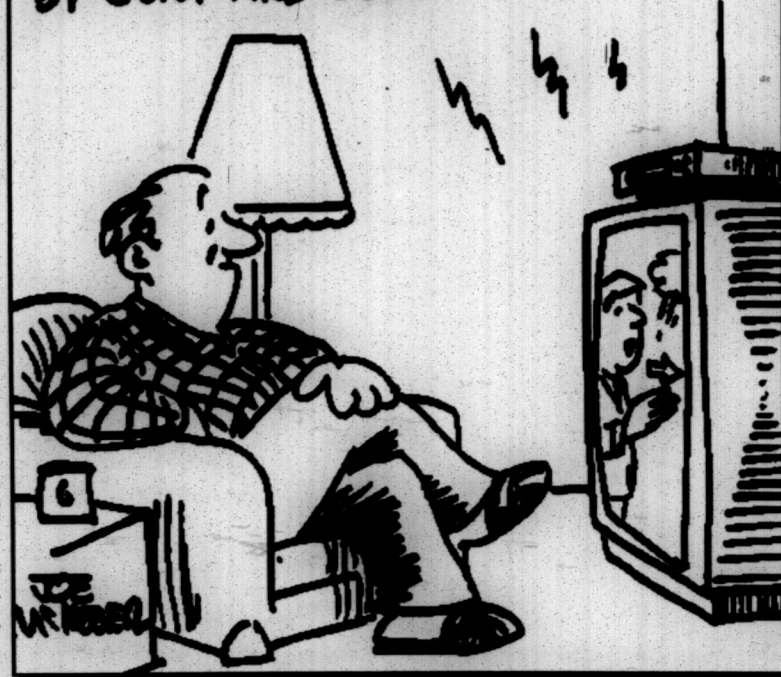
Even as he sought to clean up his life and win back his family, Internet pornography continually beckoned him back to his former lifestyle. The outcome of his perpetual struggle will always be in doubt.

A newspaper article recently reported the conviction of a Mississippi man who molested teenaged girls while plying them with marijuana and showing them pornography to ease their inhibitions about what he was doing to them.

One of the most tragic such cases, indicating the ultimate end of pornography consumption, involves little Danielle van Dam, the seven-year-old San Diego, California, girl abducted from her home in early February. Her body was found three weeks later, burned and decomposing among trash under a clump of roadside trees.

A police search of the home of the prime suspect, van Dam neighbor David Westerfield, turned up child pornography. He has since been charged with the child's abduction and murder.

**"THE NATION IS EMERGING FROM A BRIEF PERIOD OF REVIVAL AND SHOWS SIGNS OF RETURNING TO THE USUAL PATTERN OF SELF-SEEKING AND HEDONISM FOLLOWED BY HIGH PRESSURES CAUSED BY GUILT AND DEBT."**



In an interview with Newsweek magazine, San Diego Police Chief David Bejarano said, "I think it is fair to say that in these kinds of child abduction cases, child pornography is commonly involved."

Is pornography just another victimless crime? Danielle's parents certainly don't think so. Neither do the spouses and loved ones and friends of the thousands upon thousands of people who have fallen into the dark pit of pornography and can't — or won't — climb back out.

Neither does God. For every sin we carelessly characterize as victimless, we can be sure that he has counted every victim. That includes pornography, for which we will be accountable for every man, woman, and child destroyed by our lust.

## IN MY VIEW:



### Missions, good food, and Baptist heroes

By Tony Martin, Associate Editor

I can't remember who said, "I'm Baptist born and Baptist bred, and when I die I'll be Baptist dead," but he could've been talking about me. I can't remember a time when I wasn't involved in church, in a community in southeast Alabama that was so Baptist that the schools would call First Church where I was a member to make sure that their schedule didn't conflict with the church's.

I was taught that missions was the lifeblood of Baptists, and was thoroughly indoctrinated in the tales of Lottie and Annie and the Cooperative Program from my Sunbeam days on. When we had a missionary speaker in church, well, those folks were elevated to a mythical status. It was as if though heroes walked among us.

Over time, however, I got too sophisticated for my own good, and missions became for me just another program among others, and irrelevant to me personally. It really wasn't until I was out of seminary that my understanding and love for missions was rekindled. I came to see our missionaries as folks who not only knew the cost of missions, but often times had paid it.

So it was with a great deal of pleasure that I accepted the invitation some weeks back to participate in the On Missions Celebration in Lincoln Association. I spoke in five different churches: Moaks Creek, Bogue Chitto, Arlington, Montgomery, and Bethel, as did almost thirty other missionaries.

Now — talk about being fed! Every meal I sat down to was like my last. Fresh peas and creamed corn, fried okra, cornbread, greens, all sorts of intriguing casseroles, and of course, fried chicken, ham, that yummy seven-layer salad. It was decadent. I ran across some bread pudding that almost caused me to rend my garment.

Still, it was a bit intimidat-

ing; here I was with folks who were serving in Central Asia and Indonesia, and I was just a "paper man," as one lady called me. ("I've never met a paper man before," she said.) I came to realize, however, that I didn't need to be hard on myself. We are all "on mission," whether we served on foreign fields or not.

I felt that I had the opportunity to connect with the best of the best of Baptist life. I found folks to be so gracious and receptive. Here, I realized, were people who understood the importance of missions, who listened intently to the stories they heard, who were enthralled to see how their contributions toward missions were helping the Word go to

places they'd never even see.

During our lunchtime meetings, I found myself caught up in the passion and drive of our home and foreign missionaries and was stirred by the stories of their deeds.

In a world where the accolade "hero" is attached to folks hardly worthy of the title, I felt that I was rubbing shoulders with real heroes, people who had left home and family, drawn by a mystical urge to carry the cause of Christ to places most of us wouldn't dare to visit, much less live.

I salute the folks of Lincoln County — people who are the pillar and ground of Baptist life. There are whole hosts of people in our convention like them. If we take time just to listen and observe, there are true saints among us. Saints whom God has blessed with a tender love for missions, who pray ceaselessly, who give sacrificially, and who keep the home fires burning.

As one lady told me, "They can mess with whatever else they want to, but they had better not touch our missionaries!"

I didn't ask who "they" were, but I sure did hear her heart.



# Former freedom fighter preaching Christ

**SALT LAKE CITY (BP)** — Becoming the bodyguard for the president of a freedom fighter group would probably not lead the way to Jesus for most people, but that is how Dan Mamatela, pastor of Millcreek Church of Salt Lake City, became a Christian.

Growing up in South Africa, Mamatela attended church and believed he was saved. In 1976, he fled to Zambia as a refugee then eventually joined a training camp in Angola. The camp trained him and many others to be freedom fighters, known by most as a terrorist group.

He was chosen to go to East Germany where he was assigned as the freedom fighter president's bodyguard. Some of his former friends, jealous of his position, framed him. They told officials Mamatela was a CIA informant.

During this time, the freedom fighters had arrested several men, beating them and killing some.

They tied Mamatela's hands and feet with rope and interrogated him about 10 hours straight.

Mamatela said he was not afraid until one certain night. In the middle of the night, he became terribly afraid as he imagined dirt being poured over him as if he was being buried.



**FREEDOM IN CHRIST** — Dan Mamatela (right) photographed with his wife Amy, pastors Millcreek Church, a small church in Salt Lake City. Mamatela came from South Africa as a refugee and former freedom fighter to find Christ in the United States. (BP photo by Jennifer Bryant)

He got on his knees, surrounded by guards with machine guns, and prayed to God, "If you let me escape, I will serve you."

The following day during prison visitation, guards cut Mamatela loose from the ropes so he and his visitor could walk

and talk privately. As his friend was leaving, Mamatela asked the guard to get his shoes, which they remove when prisoners have visitors so they do not escape.

The guard retrieved his shoes, and Mamatela began putting them on. As Mamatela was getting up, he felt someone telling him, "Don't run, just walk." He started walking toward the gates, and he remembered Lot's wife when she turned around and was turned into a pillar of salt. So he did not look back.

He greeted guards as he walked and went right out of the gate. After walking about 100 meters, he took off running. He disappeared, and later found out the guards did not start looking for him for two hours.

After sleeping in a culvert for three days, he went to the American and British embassies, but they turned him away. Authorities were looking for him and saying he was armed and dangerous.

Then, he went to the United Nations for Refugees. There, a man decided to take him to a friend who worked at a prison. They let him in and assigned him a jail cell to hide him. For three months, they forgot about him.

"Everybody was looking for me, but nobody knew I was there," said Mamatela. The High Commissioner for Refugees came to free some other men in the prison. Mamatela told her he was with them as well.

She let him out of prison and hid him with a Catholic priest. He had to stay in his room for fear the church workers would turn him in for the ransom. He

stayed there until it was time to go to the United States.

When he arrived in the U.S., he found his sponsors were Christians who were active in a small church. He decided to go with them. One evening at church, he heard a man from Scotland preach.

"I remember he was talking about hell. 'There are many chances before you cross over,'" Mamatela remembers the preacher saying, "but after, you don't have any chances." I gave my life to Christ that night."

Mamatela said he was so emotional he does not remember walking down the aisle. Now, "I knew there was a difference" in my life. "Fear had gripped me because I had been so close to death," explained Mamatela.

MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

**THE  
SECOND  
FRONT PAGE**

**THE BAPTIST**  
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## Youth ministers gather

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)**— Some of the Southern Baptist Convention's most cutting-edge pastors and youth leaders are coming together for a national conference that organizers hope will spiritually refresh youth ministers and their spouses. Re:Generation, a conference for youth leaders, will be held April 8-10 at The People's Church in Nashville, Tenn. Featured speakers include Doug Fields, youth pastor at Saddleback Community Church and author of *The Purpose Driven Youth Ministry*; Ed Young, senior pastor of Fellowship Church in Dallas; Darren Whitehead, youth pastor of The People's Church; Evangelist David Nasser; Stuart Rothberg, teaching pastor of Sagemont Church in Houston; Christian artist Michael W. Smith and worship leaders Delirious? and Matt Redmon. "Holding a youth conference is not a brand new idea, but we wanted to create an environment where they could be refreshed, share new ideas and get practical resources to do youth ministry more effectively," said Whitehead, who organized the conference. "This conference will present to youth ministers a place where they can be refueled." Sponsored by The People's Church and ixalt.com, Re:Generation is the brainchild of Whitehead. "I felt that every youth pastor I met was spiritually exhausted, just really feeling beat down in the personal life, family life, and working too many hours," he said. "We want youth pastors to be free to be who God created them to be." Re:Generation will also feature workshops hosted by youth leaders from across the country, including evangelist Dawson McAllister. Additional information about the conference can be obtained at [regeneration.org](http://regeneration.org) or by calling The People's Church at (615) 794-2812.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

A U.S. Senate committee approves legislation lifting a White House-supported ban on federal funding of transplantation research using fetal tissue from induced abortions. Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy and the Labor and Human Relations Committee sponsored the bill.

### 20 years ago

Healthier than predicted growth in December characterized Southern Baptists' final 1981 statistical report from the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention. Totals exceeded projections in all areas except missions expenditures.

### 50 years ago

In an editorial, editor A.L. Goodrich writes: "To take 18-year-old boys and put them in military camps with liquor on every side will be to make drunkards of many of them and moral derelicts of others. The liquor crowd will see that there is plenty of liquor and... opportunity to get it."



# Church comforting crematory scam victims

NOBLE, Ga. (BP) — If there's just one thing Charles Cornwell wants his congregation to remember about the dark cloud hanging over their community, it's this — "God's love shines brightest when situations seem to be the darkest."

family, owners of Tri-State Crematory, as well as the people affected by the alleged crime.

"This morning I came to realize that the cloud of darkness that has loomed over our community is growing darker each day but as I came to grips with that, I also realized that the light that shines through the darkness is growing brighter each day.

"God could have stopped Sept. 11, but he didn't. He could have stopped February 15, but he didn't. We're not going to get over this in a month, and probably not in our lifetime, but I can tell you one thing, and that is that our faith is going to be strengthened and Christ is going to be glorified.

"I'll be honest with you," he said as he alluded to the discovery of more than 300 bodies in the woods adjoining his church — "Several times this week I've felt the pressure so great that I thought my heart would literally stop.

"That's when I would clutch the steering wheel of my car and say 'God, I can't handle this any more,' but at that point of surrender I felt God's presence and the burden was lifted.

The lesson that I have learned again this week is that in times like these, God's love can be so real you can almost touch it."

Cornwell urged his congregation to search out that love and take comfort in it because God is a god of comfort.

"In our crises we may be disappointed and confused with the action of our neighbors, but when we walk back in the Bible to Genesis 1:1 where Moses recorded 'In the beginning, God...' and then walk through the centuries from the Old into the New Testament, we see story after story of people who were living through crises just like we are.

"How wonderful to know that the Bible shows us that in every crisis, God was there, nurturing, healing, and reminding those who were suffering of his abundant love. How wonderful to know that out of 30,000 promises, God has never broken one of them.

"It's not for me to understand what is happening outside in that field or why it happened, but it is up to me — and it is up to us — to remind people of God's love. Isn't it wonderful to know that we have been entrusted to offer the world God's most powerful message of 'I love you' and that it is found only in Jesus Christ."

In summing up the events of the past week, Cornwell said he condensed hours of newscasts

and pages of magazine and newspaper accounts into one simple, concise, non-judgmental statement — "Sin blinds us and makes us do dumb things."

A few miles away at Oakwood Church in Chickamauga, pastor Darrell Henry called his congregation to a time of special prayer for the state troopers, emergency medical technicians, deputies, and other support workers who are members of the church and are shouldering the burden on a daily basis.

Henry asked Walker County Sheriff Steve Wilson and his family, who are members of the congregation, to come to the front of the church where individuals laid hands on them in a time of special prayer.

Standing outside the sanctuary in the foyer, Larry Houston, lead greeter, echoed the sentiments of many in the county.

"I grew up in the funeral business and began working in a funeral home as a teenager, but I still don't understand how something like this can happen.

"From a strictly secular perspective we know that the human body is worth only about 78 cents based on its mineral content, but it's worth the world to the grieving family," he said.

"The body of a deceased individual should always be treated with respect and dignity," he pointed out.



**SHARING THOUGHTS** — Pastor Charles Cornwell (second from left) of Center Point Church shares his thoughts of the past week with members of the church on Sunday morning. Steve Gaither (left), Jane Corbin (third from left), and Tracy Winjet are among those asking themselves why the Marsh family betrayed community trust by disposing of corpses on grounds of Tri-State Crematory, adjoining the church. (BP photo by Joe Westbury)

Cornwell spent his Feb. 24 sermon reassuring his congregation at Center Point Church that God's love can overcome any situation, especially in times like these when the world seems to be turned upside down, and he called on his congregation to continue to pray for Ray Brent Marsh and his

## Mississippian elected Annuity Bd. vice-chairman

DALLAS (BP) — William T. "Dale" Patterson, a member of First Church, Jackson, and senior vice-president for Prudential Financial, Inc., in Jackson, was elected February 25 to serve as vice-chairman of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Patterson is also a former deacon chairman at First Church, Jackson. He will serve with George Tous van Nijkerk of North Carolina, who was chosen for a third one-year term as chairman.

In other business, key improvements to programs for retired Southern Baptist ministers were approved by trustees of the Southern Baptist Convention's Annuity Board during their Feb. 25-26 meeting in Dallas.

President O.S. Hawkins told trustees, "In a year marked by attacks on America, a financial recession and world crises, the Annuity Board remained faithful in its vision to honor God and assist our participants in enhancing their financial security."

After hearing a special report and recommendations from their relief committee, trustees affirmed revisions to the guidelines for the Supplemental Assistance and Adopt An Annuity programs. The programs will be combined into a single ministry and the eligibility guidelines will be modified to allow more retirees to qualify for benefits.

Additionally, many Adopt An Annuity recipients now will qualify for more than twice the benefit they have been receiving. While in the past donors have been asked to give at specific levels, the new program will encourage donors to contribute at any level.

Chief Operating Officer John R. Jones reviewed the year 2001 from an operations

perspective. "While financial markets continued to disappoint investors, the Annuity Board successfully implemented programs during the year that will benefit its participants in the years ahead," he said.

Of particular note was the creation of a family of no-load mutual funds to allow eligible investors to invest in IRAs and also set up Personal Investment Accounts. Additionally, a new business system was implemented to provide a more robust platform for internal operations.

Chief Financial Officer Jeffrey P. Billinger reported total assets were \$7.1 billion at Dec. 31, 2001, compared to \$7.7 billion at Dec. 31, 2000. Although, financial markets were down for the year, assets rebounded nicely in the fourth quarter driven by net income of \$452.5 million.

Billinger told trustees, "This marks the first time net income has been positive for three consecutive months since the fourth quarter of 1999." He also noted that cash gifts to the board's endowment program set a new record at \$4.04 million.

Benefit payments and withdrawals in 2001 totaled \$461 million. At year's end, there were 29,461 participants/beneficiaries receiving funded benefit payments from the board. Participants or beneficiaries receiving fixed annuities of five years or longer received a five percent increase in their benefit as of Jan. 1, 2001.

The Church Annuity Plan had 52,362 persons from 23,458 churches in active billing status Dec. 31, and another 38,931 institutional and entity employees had active retirement accounts. Participant contributions of \$358 million represented a seven percent increase over 2000.

A total of \$5,217,655 was distributed

through the board's relief program to needy retired ministers and their widowed spouses. The amount received from the Southern Baptist Convention Cooperative Program and special designations totaled \$1.4 million. The entire Cooperative Program allocation for the Annuity Board and special designations is spent in relief ministry without any expense applied. The board's Retired Ministers' Support Fund supplements the convention allocation. A significant number of persons on relief receive no regular retirement annuity because their churches never enrolled them in the Church Annuity Plan.

Trustees adopted a response to a motion referred from the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) meeting in New Orleans last June. The motion asked that a study be conducted to determine the feasibility of forming a group that would enable smaller SBC churches to participate in the group insurance plan offered through the board without affecting local church autonomy.

The board affirmed the spirit of the messenger's motion, but because SBC polity does not allow the Southern Baptist Convention to mandate action of SBC churches, adequate participation requirements could not be met to form a single group for all SBC churches. In the spirit of the request, new guidelines have been developed that will allow smaller churches (less than 10 employees) in the same geographical area to form a group under the Annuity Board's Employer Security Program. Information and guidelines concerning this program are available by contacting the board. The full text of the official response to the motion will be printed in the 2002 SBC Book of Reports.



## MORAL INDISCRETION

The March 4 edition of Newsweek magazine had on its front cover a picture of Boston's Catholic Cardinal, Bernard Law. The bold cover story had as its headlines, "Sex, Shame, and the Catholic Church," and then as its subtitle, "Eighty Priests Accused of Child Abuse in Boston and a New Soul Searching Across America."

The tragedy of this headline is that such wrongdoing among the priesthood could be a cover story of a national magazine. The even greater tragedy is that if Newsweek had wanted to focus on such activity, they could have had the headlines detailing the sexual sins of many, if not most, mainline denominations in America. Baptists are by no means excluded!

Moral indiscretion is the dressed-up, nice phrasing to describe what used to be called adultery or fornication. It is the term reserved generally for pastors, staff, religious folks, and sometimes politicians. It allows us, in polite terms, to talk about a tragic issue related to our leaders. The problem cuts across all religious lines and the term can be used in Catholic circles as well as Baptist and Evangelical circles.



# Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Recently, I was asked if it was of epidemic proportions and I responded, "If it is not epidemic, I hate to see what it will be like when we get to that point."

It seems as though every day we hear of someone who has committed a moral indiscretion and consequently loses their job, standing, influence, and personal integrity, as well as the possibility of losing family. It is tragic! There are so many issues related to the problem that it would take a book to even begin to address the causes, consequences, and any possible cures.

Frequently, I am asked by someone, "Why don't y'all do something about those preachers?" Of course, most everyone knows that this is not something that is easily done, even if you knew what to do.

What would you do? Would you lock up the preach-

ers so that they could not get out and get involved in such a tragic way with people? Or, would you lock up all the women and thereby keep the pastors from involvement? In today's world you could lock them both up, yet they could connect by the Internet and still develop an illicit relationship that destroys.

No one is immune from falling and there are no sure-fire absolutes in protecting someone. I often think of King David who was a powerful king, a wise man, and a man who sought after the Lord.

David was somewhere in his 50's when he committed adultery with Bathsheba. Neither age, education, position, nor power is a guarantee of immunity.

One of the major problems in trying to address the issue is that you never know who is involved in an immoral relationship until it is too late to do anything about it.

I have never had a pastor, or anyone else as far as that's concerned, to call me or come and visit with me and say, "I'm thinking about having an affair. What would be your advice?" No — I, like you, hear about it after the explosion and I, like you, wonder how we can put the pieces back together.

Is there no hope or help? There certainly is, but, the bulk of what can be done is dependent upon the internal kind of integrity that a man or a woman has that would, by

the grace of God, help guard them. Some suggestions that would help a person avoid the pitfall of moral indiscretion are:

• **Meditate.** What I mean by that is, spend time with the Lord and his Word and do what meditation is meant to do. Meditation does not mean that you simply sit with your brain in neutral.

No, meditation takes the Word of God and thinks through applications and incidences in life and how God would apply those verses to those experiences.

Long before you ever arrive at the problem, you can meet with the Lord and come to an agreement as to what you will do.

Predetermine what you are going to do when faced with temptation. While it may be impossible to make a decision in the cloud of emotions, you can make a decision by rational, spiritual thinking beforehand.

• **Navigate.** Either you can just stay away from the areas of temptation, or when they arise, you can get away from them.

It would be somewhat like Joseph when approached by Potiphar's wife — he ran out of the room. There is nothing wrong with that and it may be the only way to get away.

• **Mediate.** I mean by this that we can lovingly reach out to others that we may see getting in trouble — not just to confront them in a "in your face" kind of way by telling them that they need to back off — but to encourage someone who may not see that everyone sees that they are getting in trouble.

It is very possible that a life can be salvaged before destruction takes place. Later on, it is impossible to undo an act, unring a bell, or uncrack an egg!

Whether you fill the pulpit or a place in the pew, every one of us is susceptible and needs to lean on the Lord, stay close to him, and stay far from sin.

May God help each of us to live in Christian discretion, empowered by Christ himself.

## New feature to debut on LifeWay site

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — A weekly, three-minute video, Pastor's Partner, is a new online feature provided by the church resources division of LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

Each week Gene Mims, president of the division and a veteran pastor, speaks about critical issues that pastors face. "We want to be the champion for our pastors," Mims said. "Our hope is that this new video series will provide help and support to them."

Pastor's Partner currently features a series in which Mims shares from his book, *The 7 Churches Not in the Book of Revelation*, published by Broadman & Holman.

Previously recorded videos are archived on the Web site. In addition to offering the video, the church resources division invites pastors to sign up for a new free e-newsletter at: <http://www.lifeway.com/includes/register.asp>.



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**BALLWIN BAPTIST CHURCH** in West Saint Louis County, 25 miles from downtown, seeking full-time associate of music. Ministry will include additional responsibilities. Please send resume to: 15101 Manchester Road, Ballwin, Missouri 63011, ATTN: Personnel; email: [ballwin@swbell.net](mailto:ballwin@swbell.net); or fax to: (636) 227-3438.

**CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY** Free estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone (601) 776-6617.

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## MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR** weekday ministry program. Approximately 180 children. Please forward resume and salary requirements to: Assistant Director Position, 302 West Jackson Street, Ridgeland, MS 39157.

**CAREY CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH**, Mt. Pleasant, Miss., is seeking a bi-vocational youth minister. Send resume to: Youth Minister Search Committee, Carey Chapel Baptist Church, 170 Carey Chapel Road, Red Banks, MS 38661.

**CHURCH AVERAGING 100** in Sunday School seeks full-time minister of music and youth or bi-vocational minister of music. Please send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, 2878 Old

Hwy. 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180; or fax to (601) 636-7574.

**FLOWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a part-time youth minister. Please send resume to 1649 Old Fannin Road, Flowood, MS 39232, ATTN: Personnel Department.

**MID-SIZED CHURCH** seeking part-time minister of music at Steep Hollow Baptist Church, Poplarville, Miss. 2 Sunday morning services plus Wednesday night services. Please call (601) 795-4638 or fax resume to (601) 795-4696.

**SEEKING PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER.** Send resume to Calvary Baptist Church, P.O. Box 2278, Pascagoula, MS 39569, ATTN: Chairman, Search Committee.

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## Former minister dies at 73

Edmund Whitfield Holmes Jr., 73, died Feb. 27 in Gulfport. Funeral services were held March 1 at First Church, Gulfport, and graveside service in Aberdeen. He served as the chief of chaplains at the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Biloxi and Gulfport for 23 years, until his retirement in May 1996. He served as interim pastor for numerous Baptist and Protestant churches on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Some of these churches included Commission Road, Bel Aire, Gulfport Heights, Cowan Road, First Christian Church of Gulfport, and First Church, Lyman.

Holmes is survived by his wife of 50 years, Betty Beckham Holmes of Gulfport; sons, E. Whit Holmes, DeRidder, La.; David Holmes, Brandon; Mark Holmes, Sherman, Texas; and Steve Holmes, Atlanta, Ga.; and six grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church, Gulfport, Home Missions, P. O. Box 70, Gulfport MS 39502.

A youth rally will be held at Cleary Church, Florence, on March 9 at 7 p.m. Jon Gillis will be speaking and Lance Beaumont will lead the praise and worship. For additional information, contact Erich Stafford at (601) 845-2020.

A reception in honor of the retirement of pastor Bobby Douglas will be held at First Church, Columbus, March 9, from 5-8 p.m.

Concord Church, Noxubee Association, held ground breaking services on Jan. 20 for a family life center and eight Sunday School rooms. Pictured (from left, standing by shovel) are Charles

E. Maples, pastor; Gene O'Neal, chairman of building and ground; and Tommie Robbins, chairman of trustees.

Over 250 women from 35 states and the Caribbean participated in the fifth annual Training Effective Leadership (TEL) conference Feb. 7-10 in Talladega, Ala. TEL was sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and held at Shocco Springs Conference Center, an Alabama Baptist facility. Mississippi Missions Educators who attended the TEL conference (pictured from right to left, bottom row) are Gustavo Salazar, Janet Green, Ann Stone, Pat Ingram; (top row)



TEL conference participants

Yolanda Salazar, Tammy Kathy Burns, Paula Smith, and Anderson, Melleen Moore, Robin Keels.



Ground breaking service at Concord Church, Noxubee Assn.

## 1119 Mississippi Churches Can't Be Wrong.

More than 1100 churches throughout Mississippi put their faith in Wellington Associates for comprehensive insurance services including property, general, and specific liability, vehicle, workers compensation, and other coverages. Wellington guarantees a quality program, customized for your ministry, at the most competitive premium rates.

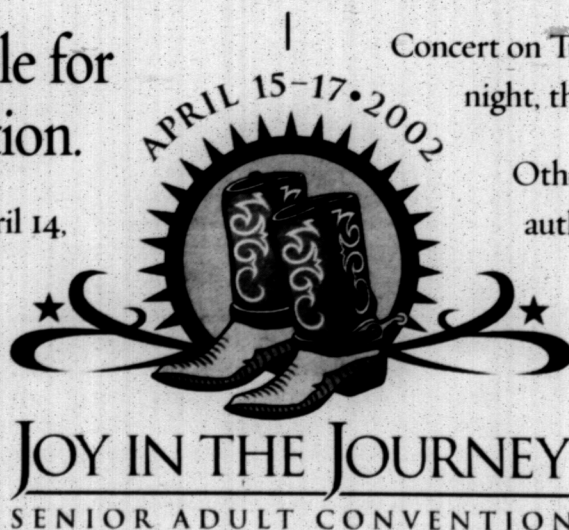
For references and more information, call Mike Brooks at 601-353-2400 or 1-800-442-0290.



# Get Ready! Saddle Up! Join us in the Journey to Fort Worth!

Hurry, space is still available for the Senior Adult Convention.

Registration begins Sunday afternoon, April 14, and continues throughout Monday. The opening session includes concert pianists Nielson and Young; a 2,500 voice senior adult choir; Bob Burroughs, Music/Worship leader; and a concluding message by Esther Burroughs. The music will also include a Gospel Reunion



Concert on Tuesday night, and to close Wednesday night, the premier of the *Joy in the Journey* musical.

Other speakers include: Dr. Bruce Wilkinson, author of *The Prayer of Jabez*; Dr. Paul Carlisle, co-author of *Strength for the Journey*; T.W. Hunt, author of *Mind of Christ* and *Disciple's Prayer Life*; and Dr. Gene Mims, President of LifeWay Church Resources and author of *Thine is the Kingdom*.

For information and registration, call LifeWay Church Resources' Event Registration at 1-800-254-2022 or fax, 615-251-3730. For information concerning sightseeing tours, available at an additional charge, call 310-264-8238 or fax, 310-264-7740.





What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS

Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 7, 2002

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

## Lad. Crusader Day



Day  
2.0.0.2

**Central Hills Baptist Retreat**  
Kosciusko

April 20, 2002  
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Cost: \$4  
Bring a sack lunch.  
(Drink will be provided.)

Register Early! DEADLINE: APRIL 12  
Come and meet our missionaries

For more info, call Men's Ministry Department,  
1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3335.

## 2002 State Young Musicians' Camps

For children who have finished 4-6 grades.



**GULFSHORE BAPTIST ASSEMBLY**  
**JUNE 21-25**

**Guest Conductor: John Langworthy**

Minister of Music, Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton

Register through Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, 228-452-7261.

Cost \$141.50 per person

**BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE**

**JULY 22-26**

**Guest Conductor: Lois Ann Roberts**

Associate, Children's Music, First Baptist Church, Orlando

Register through the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651.

Cost \$100 per person



For more info, call the Church Music Department, 1-800-748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3271

## Preaching & Worship Conference

Highland Baptist Church  
Jackson  
Monday, April 29

First Baptist Church  
Jackson  
Tuesday, April 30

**Featured Presenters:**  
**Bill Hardin & Bill Clark**

For more info, call the Church Administration - Pastoral Ministries Department  
at 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3305,  
or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

## Growing Churches Through Discipleship

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly • July 25-27



**Higher Faith Quartet**  
leading Friday evening  
worship

- Teaching and training for the whole family: preschool, children, youth and adults
- Hear Speakers' Tournament winners
- See demonstration Bible drill
- Recreational activities include:

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- Olympic-sized swimming pool
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Mississippi churches and families can **make reservations NOW** by calling Frank Simmons at 1-228-452-7261. (Visa and MasterCard are accepted for deposits.)

For info about program, call Don Hicks at  
(601)292-3287 in Jackson, or 1(800)748-1651.



**Gulfshore Baptist Assembly**  
Pass Christian



## STATE SENIOR ADULT LEADERSHIP LAB

*"Reaching and Ministering to Younger Seniors"*

FBC, Vicksburg, 601-636-2493

Tuesday, April 30, 2002

9 a.m.-4 p.m.

\$5 payable at registration



Cliff Harris

**Cliff Harris, Christian Action Commission, Dallas, Tex.**

**Music: Becky Brown, Utica, Miss.**

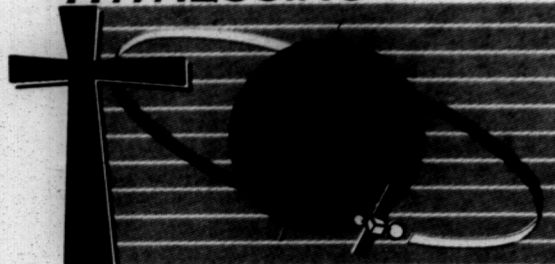
9:00 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m.	Session I.....Glenn Shows, MBCB
	Music.....Becky Brown
	"Combining Younger Seniors In Ministry" .....Cliff Harris
10:30 a.m.	Break .....Refreshments provided by Mississippi Baptist Foundation
11:00 a.m.	Session II
	Music.....Becky Brown
	Mission Ideas.....Toni Wimberly, NOBTS, New Orleans
	"How to Minister to Younger Seniors" .....Cliff Harris
12:00 p.m.	Lunch .....Lunch is on your own
1:30 p.m.	Session III
	Disco Duck.....Charles Martindale
	Minister with Senior Adults, FBC, West Monroe, La.
	Resources for Younger Seniors .....Glenn Shows, MBCB
2:30 p.m.	Session IV
	Music.....Becky Brown
	"Christian Ethics on Death" .....Cliff Harris, Dallas
3:30 p.m.	- Adjourn

• **DISPLAYS • BOOKSTORE • HANDOUTS**

For more info contact:

Glenn Shows, Discipleship and Family Ministry, (601)292-3373 or 1(800)748-1651

## WITNESSING



## THROUGH MEDIA

### WORKSHOPS

- **Creative Production - Led by Don Warren and Lynn Bullock**  
Creating spots, outreach videos, devotional thoughts, VBS promotion, budget presentations and others for the local church.
- **How Did They Do That? - Led by Don Warren and Lynn Bullock**  
(one hour session for everyone)  
Examples will be shown. Share your samples...bring in VHS format.
- **The Ministry of Media and What's New - Led by Chip Turner**  
Participants will explore illustrations of how local churches can use various forms of media to minister to their communities for Christ as well as equip and edify believers. Discover the new technology that's out there...DBD, High Definition Television, D9, other digital formats plus editing linear and nonlinear.
- **How to Get Started on the Web - Led by J.C. Howell**  
Internet beginners can see what you need to know about getting on line and publishing a church Web page.
- **Advanced Web Site Design - Led by J.C. Howell**  
Participants who have a basic knowledge of Web site design and want to take your church Web page to the next level.
- **"Nuts and Bolts" of Camera Operation - Led by Don Warren and Lynn Bullock**  
Participants will walk through the basic camera operations such as framing, functions and camera directions.
- **Sound Advice - Led by Tony Brooks**  
Participants will receive audio tips and production techniques for the sound operator (house and broadcast). Question and answer format for those involved in working with sound in a local church television ministry.

MAY 3-4, 2002

COLONIAL HEIGHTS BC, JACKSON

For more information, call Ian Richardson, Communication Services, 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3290, or E-mail: irichardson@mbcb.org



## Christian Performing Arts Festival

April 5-6, 2002

Country Woods Baptist Church, Jackson

Cost \$25 (includes T-shirt, snacks, lunch on Saturday and incredible seminars)

## CONFERENCES

### Drama

- Acting (beginners and advanced)
- Directing (beginners and advanced)
- Illusions
- Choreography
- Technical Support

### Clowning

- Clowning (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Clown Troupe
- Balloon Sculpting
- Clowning Skills

### Puppets

- Puppetry (beginners and advanced)
- Leading a Puppet Team (beginners and advanced)

### Church Recreation

- Fun and Games
- New Ideas
- Creative and Fun Classes in the Areas of Socials, Senior Adults, Children and General Recreation

### Youth Ministry

- Training Youth to be Leaders
- Training for Youth Mission Trips
- Spring Training...Tips for Building Better Players and Stronger Teams  
*led by Gary Permenter*

For more information, please contact the  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
Discipleship and Family Ministry  
Department

(601)968-3800 or 1(800)748-1651



## PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

April 8-9, 2002  
Camp Garaywa, Clinton

### Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference

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Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department • Call 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3305 or E-mail kmcdonnell@mbcb.org

## NORTH MISSISSIPPI WOMEN'S CELEBRATION 2002

North Mississippi Women's Celebration 2002 is created specifically for women who cannot stay overnight at a retreat, but need the inspiration, motivation and information of taking others "under their wings."

**Saturday, March 9, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.**  
**Slayden Baptist Church, Lamar, Miss.**  
(located on Hwy 72 between Memphis and Corinth)  
**Cost: \$8 per person**

Contact Kathy Burns or Nancy Mason, WMU, for info:  
Call 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3316, or  
E-mail, Kburns@mbcb.org or Nmason@mbcb.org

## DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCE SHOWCASE

6:30-9:15 P.M.

Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven  
(601)833-2597

Thursday, March 21

Easthaven Baptist Church, Brookhaven  
(601)833-2597

The Discipleship and Family Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, along with LifeWay Christian Resources, is presenting an overview of discipleship materials. Don't miss this excellent opportunity to learn more about valuable resources from our knowledgeable leaders.

For more information, please contact the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department: (601)968-3800 or 1(800)748-1651.

## One Voice in Concert, March 10

First Baptist Church, Magee, 7 p.m.



Stacey Spencer  
Worship Leader



Jake Gullledge  
Music Worship Leader

**Super Summer 2002**  
**July 15-19**  
Mississippi College

For more info contact:  
Harvey Ellis, Discipleship and Family Ministry  
(601)292-3286 or 1-(800)748-1651

## WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA AWARDS

Sponsored by the Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting organization, the 2002 Witnessing Through Media Awards program has been created to recognize radio and video productions which demonstrate excellence in message design and production in helping to bring Mississippi and the world to Jesus. If your church is involved in a radio or video production in the following time frame (March 1, 2001 - March 1, 2002), why not think of entering this year's awards program. "I encourage you to join with other Mississippi churches in sharing ideas through media by participating in this year's awards program," says Ian Richardson, director, Communication Services. Contact his office for an entry form or additional information.

Entry deadline is March 22, 2002.

For more information, call Ian Richardson, Communication Services, 1(800)748-1651 or in Jackson, (601)292-3290, or E-mail: irichardson@mbcb.org





Pray this day for...

March 8-21, 2002

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"When life knocks you to your knees—well, that's the best position from which to pray, isn't it?"

Ethel Barrymore

Calvary Baptist Church is an International Baptist congregation in Bangkok, Thailand, transitioning from one pastor to another. Pray for the new pastor and his wife as they learn the language so they can effectively share the message of Jesus.

For (1) Substance Abuse (CAC Emphasis); (2) Please continue praying for the believers to not lose hope in God's provision for their needs in Malawi during the time of hunger. Pray that many will be able to testify to God's faithfulness.

Israeli Jews, numbering 5.2 million, are a unique people group from over 100 countries. As to their spiritual state, only a tiny minority has received Jesus as Messiah. Please pray for the evangelization of the Israeli Jews.

For: (1) Discipleship Showcase, Trinity BC, Southaven (D&FM); (2) Join the missionaries serving among the Maasai of East Africa, in giving thanks to God for rain.

Pray for N., the lay leader of a new church start in Ghitesti, Romania. The work began strong last summer, but encountered some difficulties during the fall and winter. Pray for N's renewed vision and passion for the people of Ghitesti.

For: (1) Church Facilities & Furnishings Workshop, Byram (CAPM); (2) Discipleship Showcase, Clinton (D&FM); (3) The superstitious Pogoro of Tanzania think ancestors control your circumstances. Pray that they will comprehend that God does.

Pray for the leadership development within the churches of Uruguay, through the Seminary and School of Missions. Pray for an awakening among Christian leaders to the need to start new works to reach their 1.3 million people.

Ron and Shirley Gustman, MSC missionaries in student work, have served 16 years as BSU workers at the Univ. of Denver, Col., and are the only BSU workers there. Pray for other volunteers and for good health for Ron and Shirley.

Pray that the ladies who attend a women's Bible study in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, will clearly understand the truths in God's Word. Pray for Dominican leaders L., M. and S., and missionaries Peggy Siebenmann and Chita Drinkard.

For: (1) Discipleship Showcase, Brookhaven (D&FM); (2) Young Pastors' Retreat, Lake Tiak O'Khata, Louisville (CAPM); (3) Pray today for Prime Minister Mohammed Ghannouchi of Tunisia (northern Africa).

For: (1) Mission Service Corps' Planning Update Meeting, Central Hills (MM); (2) For God's wisdom for Bill Breunle, church planter strategist assigned to northern California and his wife, Annette, as they seek to plant churches.

For: (1) Keyboard Workshop, Baptist Building, Jackson (CM) (2) Praise God for the many training centers being established across China by unregistered church leaders. Pray for safety and boldness as God's Word is taught.

Pray for the translation of the "Experiencing God" study in Sri Lanka. The first two translators died. A new translator, a typist, and an overseer of the project have begun. Please pray for them as they step into the middle of the project.

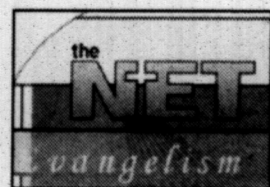
Praise God for the translation of the Bible into the Turkana language. A dedication was held in Lodwar, Kenya. Pray that God will use His Word to touch Turkana with the light of the gospel.



## Reach For The Right Tool

OUTREACH EVANGELISM TOOLS TOUR

APRIL 22, 23 and 25 • 2002



"The Net"  
Don Lum  
MBCB



"Share Jesus Without Fear"  
Marcus Peagler and  
Don Hicks, MBCB



"FAITH"  
A LifeWay  
Representative



"GROW"  
John Clendinning  
MBCB

## Learn about the different Outreach Tools that are available for your church!

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Longview Heights BC  
Olive Branch

April 23  
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April 25  
Main Street BC  
Hattiesburg

All conferences are from 7-9 p.m.  
and will feature Round Robin sessions covering:

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**Association Leadership:** associational missions directors, evangelism directors, Sunday School directors, Discipleship Training directors

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Phone: 1(800)748-1651 or (601)968-3800 in Jackson  
E-mail: jclendinning@mbcb.org

# HOUSE TOPS



## HOMECOMING SET

Editor:

First Church of Lucedale will celebrate its 100th anniversary on April 6-7. The homecoming committee is seeking help in locating many former staff and members who should be invited to attend that day. Please contact Vivian Fryfogle at (601) 947-4081 with names and addresses.

The committee is also seeking names of former members who went into career Christian ministry. Couples who were married in First Church are being asked to submit a wedding photograph to be displayed at the homecoming and returned after April 8.

For more information, the church can be contacted at (601) 947-3226.

Joyce Dorsett  
Lucedale

## MINISTRY BLOCKED

Editor:

One of the wonderful freedoms we have as Southern Baptists is the autonomy of the local church. I believe Rivercrest Fellowship has the right to call a woman pastor.

However, the autonomy of the local church cuts both ways. While they are free to ordain a woman as pastor, Mississippi Baptists and Metro Association are also free to not have fellowship with them as a result of their action.

If a church chooses to take steps that are not consistent with basic Southern Baptist beliefs, why would they wish to be called Southern Baptist?

Maybe the question is, "Are they truly Southern Baptist?"

In The Clarion-Ledger article, several people stated that Carla Street is a "good preacher," "a good pastor," and "well-educated for the job."

A Rivercrest member said she doesn't believe "Scripture condemns female ministers."

Not knowing Street personally, I must believe that she is a good person, well-educated, a skilled communicator, and a student of the Bible — but I have trouble understanding how she can be qualified biblically to be ordained as pastor since 1 Tim. 3:2 says a pastor must be "the husband of one wife."

Street's husband, who is the new coordinator for the Mississippi Cooperative Baptist Fellowship movement, was quoted as saying he believes some in our state want to block his wife's ministry. I am not one of those. Why should I? God blocked her ministry as an ordained pastor when he inspired Paul to write to Timothy 2000 years ago.

Jim Butler, pastor  
Trinity Church, Southaven

## LET'S GET HONEST

Editor:

When are some Southern Baptists going to advance past the Stone Age?

Generally, no group in the history of the world has experienced cruel and mindless discrimination more than women. To a large extent, this attitude is still alive and well in many Baptist pulpits based on a single shopworn and ambiguous phrase, "husband of one wife."

Frank Stagg and his wife Evelyn, in their highly informative volume, *Women in the World of Jesus*, totally demolish the Humphreys Association Pastors Conference's dogmatic interpretation which eliminates from the ministry Paul, John the Baptist, and any other unmarried person (letter to the editor, February 7). Since Paul clearly preferred that all unmarried persons remain single — 1 Cor. 7:25-28 — it is evident, based on the Humphreys position, that preachers would have become extinct almost 2,000 years ago.

"Husband of one wife" is totally ambiguous and simply will not support theological dogmatism. Stagg notes, "in truth we do not know to what it is addressed... neither the grammar nor the context removes the ambiguity. The whole question of ordination is unclear in the New Testament." May I suggest Gal. 3:28?

The same attitude in an earlier era used equally questionable texts to justify slavery. Let's get honest — most preachers want to bar women from preaching because of their own prejudices and will grasp at any "proof-text" available to shield themselves.

Southern Baptists can find in the Bible considerably more justification for permitting slavery than for prohibiting women from preaching.

Charles Moulder  
Hattiesburg

## BAPTISTS ARE CREEDAL

Editor:

In regard to your editorial in the Feb. 21 issue, I must disagree with your statements that, "Baptists have been adamantly opposed to creedalism, virtually since the beginnings of our faith," and, "It's safe to say that anti-creedalism is a benchmark of Baptist faith."

I would humbly encourage you to do more research on this subject, and I believe that you will find that, quite the opposite, Baptists began as a "creedal" (or confessional) people.

Please refer to the Baptist Confession of Faith of 1689 (Second London Confession), the "creed" of the English Baptists, who were the forbears of Southern Baptists, and also the book, *A History Of Mississippi Baptists*, which gives several examples of "creedal" confessions of faith from the first churches and associations in our state.

Also, the book, *Baptist Creeds, Confessions, And Catechisms* which gives numerous examples of such required statements of faith.

The church I am blessed to pastor, in seeking to be a more biblical, historic Southern Baptist church, adopted "The Abstract Of Principles" of Southern Seminary as our own church confession of faith.

I praise God for Jerry Rankin's letter to International Mission Board missionaries, as much as I did for Al Mohler's requirement for the faculty of Southern Seminary to sign and subscribe to the seminary's confessional statement.

Soli Deo Gloria!  
Sammy Burns, pastor  
Cedar Bluff Church  
Cedar Bluff

## CLOUDING THE ISSUE

Editor:

I disagree with the emphasis given in the editorial on February 21 about the International Mission Board (IMB) asking its employees to agree to abide by the Baptist Faith and Message 2000 (BFM).

Asking employees (whose training, salaries, support, and travel comes from Southern Baptists) to teach and preach in a manner consistent with the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) is a good idea.

What if a missionary for the SBC taught Mormonism? We would of course fire them immediately.

So if it is okay to expect them to teach and preach within acceptable parameters, then we must have an acceptable standard.

The BFM 2000 has been approved for use by the SBC. Jerry Rankin is simply making sure the employees agree to teach according to these commonly held SBC beliefs.

Those (including Editor Perkins) who link this request to creedalism are clouding the issue.

No one in the SBC has asked these IMB employees to adhere to a creed in order to join SBC churches.

In fact, their membership in whatever SBC churches they chose to join is strictly between them and those local churches.

It is one thing to expect employees to follow the standards of the employer. It is a totally different thing to require acceptance of a creed to become a Baptist.

Trying to link the two different expectations sounds like a subterfuge.

Calling something you don't like by the name of something that no one likes does not change the nature of the first.

Ralph Henson, pastor  
Arrowood Church  
Meridian



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.*

*Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.*

*Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)*

*Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.*

*Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.*

*No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.*

*When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.*

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# FamilyNet affiliates enthusiastic about TruthQuest

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Network affiliates that carry programming from FamilyNet gave their thumbs-up support to the TruthQuest: California team after the 12 teenage participants were introduced at a National

Religious Broadcasters reception. "The concept really excited people," said Darin Davis, director of sales and traffic for FamilyNet Television, a broadcast division of the North American Mission Board, "but what really excited them was when each young person spoke about what they expected to happen spiritually during the trip." Katie Royals, a member of

First Church, Jackson, and a senior at Jackson Academy, is a member of the TruthQuest team. "Their testimonies really capped off the whole night," Davis noted. Nearly 300 people turned out for the Feb. 17 dessert reception at Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn., and many represented television stations and radio stations that carry FamilyNet programs.

"We have heard from several affiliates who believe this is the type of program that will pull kids away from MTV," Davis said. "They are really excited about having a television program that shows the cool side of being a Christian teenager." "They were kind of pumped that this side of Christian teens was finally being shown," he pointed out.



MEETING AFFILIATES — Katie Royals (left) of Jackson, Miss., and Melissa Deming (center) of Fort Worth, Texas, listen as a FamilyNet guest makes a point during a dessert fellowship at the Opryland Hotel. (BP photo by Jim Veneman)

## Homecoming

Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven: March 17; covered dish lunch will be served; business meeting, 1:15 p.m.; and special music at 1:30 p.m. featuring The Chalk Family; Johnny Smith, speaker; Owen Autrey, music; and JoAnn Fortenberry, pianist.

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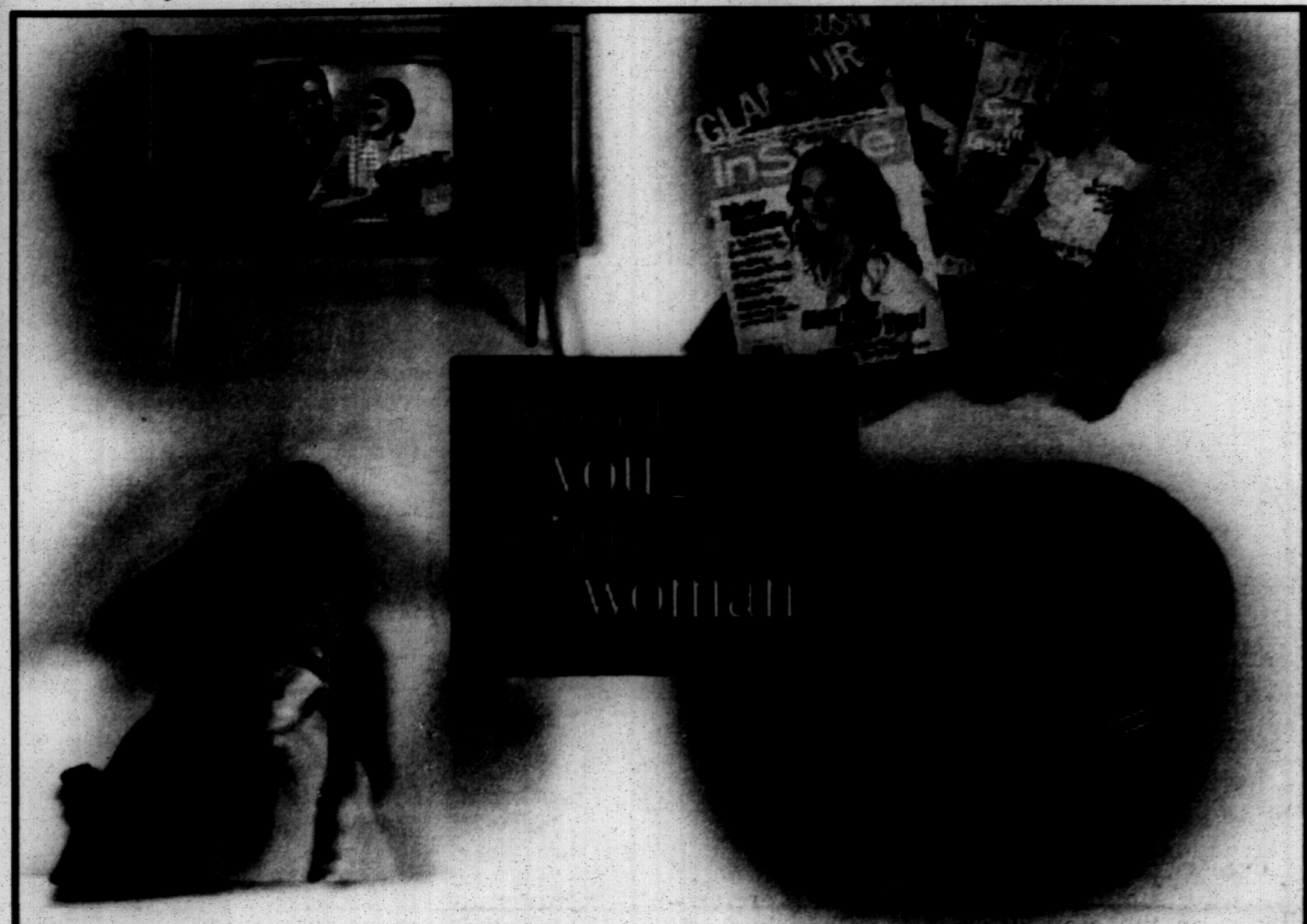
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The Baptist College of Health Sciences, located at 1003 Monroe in Memphis, Tenn., is hosting an open house for prospective students on Saturday, March 16 at 10 a.m. For more information, call us toll-free at 1-866-575-BCHS or visit [www.bchs.edu](http://www.bchs.edu).

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## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College** is offering a course to assist individuals who are preparing to take the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT). The one-day course which offers eight instructional hours of review will be held April 6, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The fee for the review is \$125. The registration deadline for the course is March 29. Preregistration is required. For additional information, call Carole Moore at (601) 925-3265.

**Blue Mountain College** will host the sixth annual alumnae benefit banquet on March 26. An added feature of this year's entertainment is an actual auction, which will offer many varied collectibles and several choice antiques. A silent auction will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner to follow. Tickets for the \$50-per-plate dinner are on sale now. All proceeds will benefit the Stevens Dorm Project. For more information, or to order tickets, contact Carla Benson at (662) 685-4771, ext. 131.

**City Lights**, the Miss Mississippi College pageant was held Feb. 21. Leslie Corkern, of Jackson, was crowned Miss Mississippi College 2002 by Allison Kite, of Columbus, Miss MC 2001. She is the daughter of Richard and Sheree Corkern. First runner-up was Alice Sanford of Seminary; second runner-up

was Lori Todd of Oxford; and April Kelly of Southaven, was third runner-up. Sanford is the daughter of Michael and Mary Sanford. Todd is the daughter of Randy and Sonya Rodgers and Mark Todd. Kelly is the daughter of Alvan and Amye Kelly. Pictured (from left) are Sanford, Corkern, Kite, Todd, and Kelly.



Sanford, Corkern, Kite, Todd, and Kelly

## REVIVAL DATES

**Interstate, Shaw:** March 10-13; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randall Creel, Lake, evangelist; Steve and Becky Carver, Mathiston, music; Robert Haney, pastor.

**Wayside, Vicksburg:** March 10-13; Sunday 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Tony Monk, Walnut, evangelist; Bud Shiers, Vicksburg, music; Larry W. Haggard, pastor.

**Corinth, Purvis:** March 10-15; Sunday, 11 a.m., lunch, and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Scotty McDowell, evangelist and chalk talk artist; David Strebeck, pastor.

**Escatawpa, Escatawpa:** March 10-13; Sunday, 10:50 a.m., dinner on the grounds, and 6

p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 6:30 p.m.; James Messer, evangelist; Danny Langley, music; Greg Johnston, pastor.

**Friendship, McComb:** March 17; 11 a.m., noon meal, and 1:15 p.m. concert; Frank Pollard, Jackson, evangelist; Mike and Angela Britt, Brookhaven, music; Laverne Summerlin, pastor.

**New Hope Church, Foxworth,** called Kent Newell as pastor, effective Nov. 25. Newell previously served at Terry's Creek Church.

**Rivercrest Fellowship Church, Jackson,** has called Carla Street as pastor. She for-

merly co-pastored the church with her husband, Steve. Her education includes degrees from Baylor University, Southwestern Seminary, and New Orleans Seminary.

previously served at Northport Church, Northport, Ala., and Roseland Park Church, Picayune; Adams, a resident of Hattiesburg, also a graduate of NOBTS, previously served at Shifalo Church, Kiln; First Church, Arabi, La.; and 38th Avenue, Hattiesburg. Leland Hogan is pastor. Pictured (from left) are Adams, Wright, and Skipper.



Adams, Wright, and Skipper

**Carterville Church, Petal,** has recently called several new staff members. They are Ben Skipper, minister to students; James T. Wright, minister of education; and Ginger S. Adams, part-time director of children's ministries. Skipper, a native of Shuqualak, is a graduate of Mississippi State University and currently enrolled at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS); Wright, a native of Laurel, is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and NOBTS. He

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## Pelahatchie Church to celebrate 150 years

**Pelahatchie Church, Rankin Association,** will celebrate its 150th anniversary on June 2, with services beginning at 10 a.m., followed by lunch and afternoon activities. The church will also break ground to begin a building project for the construction of a new sanctuary, educational and office building, and the enlargement and renovation of fellowship hall. Steven L. Mayes is pastor. For further information, contact the church office at (601) 854-8809, or write to P. O. Box 355, Pelahatchie, MS 39145.



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## FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

### Being productive

John 15:1-17

By Sandra Gunn

The eight days that changed the world are rushing toward a climax. The disciple group is now reduced to eleven. Jesus is sharing with them from his very heart, and yet they still cannot fully understand.

The next momentous disclosure could have been made while Jesus and the eleven were walking. He stated that he is the true vine, that his Father is the vinedresser, and indicates we are the branches.

It is mind-boggling to think that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Holy One of Israel, wants to have a personal relationship with you and me! How else can a branch be connected to the vine if not in the most personal way?

Jesus' promise of the Spirit who "abides with you and will be in you" (John 14:17) is followed by the expectation that we will make our home in him.

What does it really mean to abide? We see over and over in Jesus' life that he kept in constant contact with the Father. He was in spiritual union with the Father, he was connected to him in heart, and he was connected to him by faith and love.

Many times in the Gospels we are told that Jesus went away to pray. To abide does not mean to drop in for thirty minutes a day! It does not mean to use God as a retreat center, and then go your way! It does not mean to use God as a re-fueling station!



Gunn

When Jesus says, "Abide in Me" (John 15:4), he means to live in his presence, to take up residence, to put down roots, to make our souls home in him.

It may seem impossible to live continually in God's presence, but God has made this possible by the indwelling of his Holy Spirit. The secret of this life is found in John 15:5: "I am the Vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

We must believe Jesus when he says that we can do nothing worthwhile apart from him. Our human tendency is to think that, in response to Christ's mercy and love to us, we need to do everything we can for him.

Jesus doesn't want us to do things for him! He wants to do things through us. One of the secrets to abiding in Christ is to

ask God to remind us throughout our day to yield to him.

Our seeking his face instead of his hand, our day-long devotional life, our abiding are first steps toward allowing God to change us any way he wants to!

There is no way to separate abiding and fruit-bearing. We are told in Galatians that God's Spirit, who abides in us, produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This fruit is the result of an abiding life. Jesus says that much fruit glorifies the Father. This has to be our ultimate goal — to glorify the Father.

The purpose for Jesus sharing these things with his disciples is that the joy he has will be their joy also. He yearns for us to experience the same joy he has — that of knowing he had kept his Father's commandments.

Having said that, he admonishes us to love each other — just as he loves us! Jesus' stan-

dard of love is found in verse 13: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

Jesus identified them as friends! What a wonderful thought and fact — Jesus Christ considers me his friend! He shared with the eleven everything that the Father had revealed to him. He will do the same with us today.

Jesus puts a great emphasis on loving each other. Twice in this short passage he gives this as a command. Do you suppose he was trying to make the point that during the events of the next several days they would need each other more than ever?

The how-to of loving others goes back to John 14 where Jesus teaches us about knowing and believing God. Loving God first is always prerequisite before we can love others.

How is your love relationship with God?

Gunn is a member of First Church, Biloxi.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Know God better

Ephesians 1:15-23

By Robin Brumfield

Let's now begin our next lesson on Ephesians. Our theme for this lesson emphasizes Paul's prayer for his readers to know God better. God's people must grow daily in their relationship with God. Christians need to get to know God better so they can grow in their relationship with him.

Many Christians are content with their relationship with God, even when that relationship is shallow. They are satisfied both with how well they know God and with how much they know about God. Therefore, their relationship with God is not growing any deeper. They not only need to know more about him, but they also need to know him on

a more intimate basis.

Remember that God wants believers to grow in their relationship with him. To accomplish this growth, pray for the Holy Spirit's help in getting to know God better.

Notice in Ephesians 1:15-16 that before identifying how Paul prayed for these Christians, he thanked God for their faith and love. This first point seems almost too simplistic to mention, but it is so true. The first step in getting to know God better is to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Verse 17 gives us a goal that every believer needs to seek. All Christians need to have the Holy Spirit at work in their lives. Look at this verse. Paul was praying



Brumfield

for the Holy Spirit's continuing work in these Christians' lives. He was not asking for them to receive the Holy Spirit for the first time. Paul writes this because he knows that the Holy Spirit intercedes to God for believers and helps believers know God better.

Now, let's notice that verses 18-19a explain the need for knowledge. The word "know" (v. 18) refers to more than intellectual knowledge about God. The idea is "knowing from experience."

Too often what Christians know about God is based on what they have heard or what they have read in a Christian book. It is time we get back to experiencing God in our daily lives, and let him speak to us through the Word of God.

From these verses, we see that Paul wanted these Christians to know, from their own experience, the hope to which they had been called, the riches of God's inheritance,

and the power of God that is at work in them.

Finally, verses 19b-23 discuss the available power. Look at the terms used in verses 19-20 to emphasize various aspects of God's power: "power," "working," "mighty," "strength," and "exerted." There is no wonder that, when we talk of God, we refer to his omnipotent power.

A closer look at verses 19b-23 provides added information about God's work and power. In verse 21 the words "rule and authority, power and dominion" probably refer primarily to angelic beings. Also, the meaning of "the fullness of him who fills everything in every way" in verse 23 has two primary interpretations. It can refer either to Christ or to the church as being fulfilled.

This is a difficult verse to interpret, but the best interpretation is that it refers to the church. The church is being filled as more people become part of Christ's body and as those in the church grow in

their relationship with God.

Remember, as previously stated, our relationship with Christ should be based on our experience, not the experience of others. Paul emphasizes that the power of God (that is available to and at work in Christians) is the same power that God demonstrated in resurrecting Jesus. Not only did God's power resurrect Jesus, it also gave Jesus the highest place of honor in all creation.

This power is visually seen today in Jesus' position in the Christian church. Wow! That is power.

To apply what we have just talked about, we realize that this same power that was made evident in Jesus Christ is available to help Christians grow in their relationship with God.

Why don't you bow your head right now, and ask Jesus to fill you with his power, through the Holy Spirit, to help you experience him more fully?

Brumfield is interim pastor of Goodwater Church, Forest.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats,



no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the **who, what, when, where** details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrec@mbcb.org.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



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## Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Mr. & Mrs. George F. Sigrest  
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Mr. & Mrs. Truman Aldridge  
**Flint Applewhite**  
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# Speakers explore 'Life Beyond Seminary'

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Most ministers' salary "packages" create a false impression of how much money ministers really take home, said Richard Skidmore.

regular academic classes which feature a church-focused, competency-based practical curriculum to equip leaders to grow healthy churches.

In addition, representatives from more than 10 state conventions, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board were on hand to speak with students regarding future ministry possibilities.

Skidmore, describing in his presentation the church layman's understanding of the minister's salary, said that when John Q. Church Member sees an annual line item of \$35,000 for the minister's salary, for example, the inclination is to compare that salary to someone who works in the secular arena,

such as Wal-Mart or Saturn.

However, when you examine the comparison more closely, the minister really is not making the same, Skidmore said, using a question to explain: "Do you pay for your benefits out of your salary?" the secular employee is asked, to which the typical answer is no. In fact, the benefits - medical insurance, retirement and other fringe benefits - are added to the baseline salary, thereby increasing the amount, he explained.

In comparison, typically deducted from the minister's published salary of \$35,000 is medical insurance, housing,

job-related expenses, and if the church agrees, disability and life insurance and retirement - and, because the minister is considered self-employed for Social Security tax purposes, the minister must pay the employer's portion and his portion of the Social Security tax, which amounts to around 15% of his compensation, Skidmore said.

"So, the salary of the minister, when you count out everything else, is actually closer to \$20,000 or less," Skidmore said. "When John Q. Church Member sees \$35,000 published, he's seeing the entire package, not just the take home salary."

"The salary package may look like a 'Wow!' but it can really be a 'Woe!'" Skidmore said, referencing the seminar's title, "The Salary Package: Wow! Or Woe!"

Moreover, the minister's published salary may include a line item to cover expenses such as books, conference fees, and use of the minister's personal car. "That expense belongs to the church, not to the individual," Skidmore said.

Consider how it would make the church secretary feel if deducted from her paycheck is the cost of leasing or owning the computer she uses to produce church bulletins and letters, Skidmore suggested.

"That's exactly what we do when we expect our ministers to use their own automobiles for visitation and other church-related travel. Often, ministers are given a published salary, which includes expense money that is subtracted from their total earnings rather than added to it," he said.

Instead, churches should not include expenses as part of the salary, but as a church expense similar to a utility bill, Skidmore said. At the end of the month, the minister should be reimbursed for expenses paid out of his pocket in the same way the electric bill is paid, he said, suggesting that ministers settle with the church monthly, using a mileage log and attaching other receipts as necessary. The minister and the church should agree in writing at the outset what expenses are acceptable, he said.

Skidmore also pointed out that ministers may be paying taxes they do not owe because of the way some churches set up the payment of medical insurance benefits.

"If the church pays the premium directly to the insurance company, the benefit is not reportable for tax purposes," Skidmore explained. However, if ministers are given the money in their salary package to pay the premiums on their own, then it becomes taxable income, and the ministers have to pay taxes on that amount, he said.

"It's important to always check with your state convention representative who handles compensation and tax issues to be sure that you are not paying more than you need to pay," Skidmore advised the students.

Skidmore also advised students to buy medical insurance from a national company, which would be easily transferable in cases of moving. Otherwise, they would have to provide proof of good health when switching to a new company, with the added risk of non-acceptance or higher premiums.



LIFE BEYOND SEMINARY — Tim Searcy (left), NOBTS associate professor of Christian education, and his wife Brenda (center) share a moment with Kerry Anthony during a reception honoring those who are currently or have been involved in missions. The Searcys previously served as missionaries in Colombia, South America. The reception, sponsored by the International Mission Board and the Louisiana and Mississippi Baptist conventions, was held during the seminary's Life Beyond Seminary emphasis Feb. 19-21. (BP photo by Shannon Baker)

Thus it is imperative that ministers and churches plan correctly on compensation matters, Skidmore, a Tennessee Baptist Convention church ministers' financial support specialist, told future ministers at New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS).

Skidmore was one of the featured speakers for this year's Life Beyond Seminary emphasis Feb. 19-21 at the seminary. Various seminars addressed topics such as preparing for interviews with search committees, handling conflict, church planting and preparing a ministry resume for the 21st century. The seminars supplement NOBTS'

## 'Do nothing,' church moves to missions outreach

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southwestern Seminary students caught a glimpse of God's heart — and a Missouri church's passion for missions — on Feb. 21.

Global Missions Day brought several International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries to the Fort Worth, Texas, campus with one thing on their hearts: sharing Jesus across the world. They manned exhibits and challenged seminarians with opportunities for service in their countries. In addition, John "3:16" Marshall, pastor of Second Church, Springfield, Mo., was the featured speaker in chapel.

Marshall, who adopted 3:16 as a nickname as a teenager "and it stuck as a habit," used the analogy of a baseball game to describe his involvement in the Great Commission five years ago.

"I felt like I was in the stadium but I was not in the game," he said. "I felt that Jesus was at home plate giving the Great Commission, but I had somehow been left out."

This greatly convicted him, so he put together a group of 100 leaders from his church who began meeting once a week. For the next four months they read the first 13 chapters of Acts over and over in hopes of finding out what their church was missing. The answer they

found: They were missing their part in fulfilling the Great Commission. They were missing missions.

The church decided to adopt five unreached people groups, Marshall said. One of the groups the church was assigned

was the Dong of China. Now, five years later, his church has had a great truth revealed to them, the pastor said: "... the Great Commission was not given to the church or the Sunday School class, but it was given to every individual on earth, [and] that the [International Mission] Board, the church, and the Sunday School class exist to help me as an individual to go," he said.

"You as a student at Southwestern Seminary are here to fulfill the Great Commission," Marshall said. "Missions is not just a little category [in] what you are to do in life; missions is what you are called to do."

Reading a long list of countries, Marshall said that more than 700 people in Second Church went on mission trips last year to Papua New Guinea, Taiwan, China, Japan, Nepal, India, Africa, Egypt, Spain, Mexico, Haiti, and several areas in the United States.

"Five years ago our church was doing nothing," Marshall said, and now the church has agreed to work in conjunction with the IMB to take responsibility for networking with other churches to take the Gospel to everyone in Central America.

"God totally transformed us. He remade us," Marshall said.



MISSIONARY'S FULFILLMENT — Nelda Rodriguez (left) talks with a student about the fulfillment of being a missionary during the Global Mission Day at Southwestern Seminary. (BP photo by Richard D. McCormack)

### Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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DTFOF BSAXFZ ZST FMHT

LTFZTAUML, MKU ZJUML,

MKU CJA TWTA.

STYATNF ZSXAZTTK: TXRSZ

Clue: R = G

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: First Peter One: Twenty-Five.